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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 14, 2004

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UM STUDENT CHOSEN AS ONE OF COSMO'S '50 HOTTEST BACHELORS'

MISSOULA –

Many college guys rely on pick-up lines, but not Thomas Parkhill. He was chosen by Cosmopolitan magazine as one of the “50 Hottest Bachelors in the U.S.”

Parkhill can be seen in the November issue on newsstands now. The 24-year-old University of Montana graduate student from **Columbia Falls** was chosen as the Montana representative on the list. However, he was one of only ten chosen to receive a full-page photo in the magazine spread.

“The guys were flipping through the magazine and I saw a picture of this guy and thought man, I had a pose just like that, and it was me,” Parkhill said.

Parkhill was nominated by friend and fellow UM student Andrea Bethel. She entered him in the contest last May against his wishes. In June she was notified that he had made the cut and would be featured in the legendary women’s magazine.

Bethel called Parkhill and told him he had won. He then contacted a Cosmo staff writer for an interview and agreed to a June photo shoot in the Los Angeles area. Parkhill said he was in shock when he called the magazine and asked an editor if he was the only man from Montana who entered and found out he wasn’t.

The Disney Ranch outside Los Angeles was the location for a photo shoot attended by Parkhill and 30 fellow bachelors. The remaining participants were photographed in New York.

Parkhill traveled to New York earlier this month and was one of the Cosmo men featured

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on The Today Show on Oct. 5. He was shown clad in jeans and a black T-shirt with Montana across the chest, massaging news anchor Katie Couric's shoulders.

After his Today Show appearance, Parkhill visited the Cosmo offices, attended a Cosmo-sponsored party and went club hopping with other Cosmo-chosen men. Cosmo editor-in-chief Kate White, as well as NBC Apprentice star from last season, Erika Vetrini, were in attendance. At the party, Parkhill said, he received many cards from modeling agencies, but it's not a field he wants to pursue.

"I got some business cards," he said, "But I have a job. I'm in graduate school and I'm not going to move to New York. I just have a lot of other responsibilities. I don't want to be known as a Cosmo model my whole life. It's something to show my kids, though."

Parkhill, who arrived back in Missoula Oct. 6, said life hasn't changed much for him. He is still busy with work, school and being a resident assistant in Aber Hall, only now he "gets looks" and hears people whispering something about Cosmo around him, he says.

Parkhill is gaining in popularity among the girls. Before the magazine officially hit newsstands, Parkhill had received about 10 e-mails at his Cosmo address from girls interested in him. But by the day after, he had received more than 30.

Sorry ladies, but before his status as one of the "50 Hottest Bachelors" was announced, Parkhill had started dating his current girlfriend, so technically he's no longer a bachelor. He says his girlfriend, also a UM student, fits all of his "Girlfriend Must-Haves" featured in the magazine including honesty, trustworthiness and a witty sense of humor.

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